

**To:** Lane, Jennifer[lane.jennifer@epa.gov]  
**From:** Faulk, Libby  
**Sent:** Thur 8/6/2015 3:03:06 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Discharge into Las Animas

Hi Jennifer,

Tapping into your Upper Animas days. Cynthia is travelling today. Might you know who Warren is referring to? There was a blow out at the Gold King mine yesterday so a little nuts but not too bad☺ Libby

Libby Faulk, Program Manager

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

US EPA, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

[faulk.libby@epa.gov](mailto:faulk.libby@epa.gov)

303-312-6083

**From:** Smith - CDPHE, Warren [mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 8:44 AM  
**To:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** Re: Discharge into Las Animas

Thank you, Libby. Cynthia left me a message asking me to get the information to Lee on the Upper Animas team. I'm not sure of Lee's last name, and don't have contact info. Can you help, please?

Thanks.

Warren

On Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 7:26 AM, Faulk, Libby <[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov](mailto:Faulk.Libby@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Warren,

Was out on leave yesterday afternoon but did get the emails from both you and Jeanine. Rich Mylot took the lead. I'll let you know what was done on our part as soon as I catch up this morning.

Thanks! Libby

Libby Faulk, Program Manager

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

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**From:** Smith - CDPHE, Warren [mailto:[warren.smith@state.co.us](mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 2:10 PM

**To:** Peterson, Cynthia; Faulk, Libby

**Subject:** Fwd: Discharge into Las Animas

Good Afternoon: You likely know more about this than I do, but just in case, see the message string below.

Warren

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Arck - CDPHE, Freddy** <[freddy.arck@state.co.us](mailto:freddy.arck@state.co.us)>  
Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 1:57 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Discharge into Las Animas  
To: Warren Smith - CDPHE <[warren.smith@state.co.us](mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us)>

FYI at the moment. I noticed that you were not copied on this. I think Mark Salley thinks you are out of the office.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Salley - CDPHE, Mark** <[mark.salley@state.co.us](mailto:mark.salley@state.co.us)>  
Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 1:54 PM  
Subject: Re: Discharge into Las Animas  
To: "Hartman - DNR, Todd" <[todd.hartman@state.co.us](mailto:todd.hartman@state.co.us)>, Martha Rudolph - CDPHE <[martha.rudolph@state.co.us](mailto:martha.rudolph@state.co.us)>, David Kurz - CDPHE <[David.Kurz@state.co.us](mailto:David.Kurz@state.co.us)>, Gary Baughman - CDPHE <[gary.baughman@state.co.us](mailto:gary.baughman@state.co.us)>, patrick pfaltzgraff <[patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us)>, Jeannine Natterman - CDPHE <[jeannine.natterman@state.co.us](mailto:jeannine.natterman@state.co.us)>, Freddy Arck - CDPHE <[freddy.arck@state.co.us](mailto:freddy.arck@state.co.us)>

Thanks Todd for the additional update.

I tried to reach Rich Mylott (for those who don't know, the PIO at EPA), left voice mail on his desk and cell phones suggesting that both DNR and CDPHE think EPA is the likely lead on this.

I've had no media calls on this.

Mark

On Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 1:48 PM, Hartman - DNR, Todd <[todd.hartman@state.co.us](mailto:todd.hartman@state.co.us)> wrote:

additional ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brannon - DNR, Ginny** <[ginny.brannon@state.co.us](mailto:ginny.brannon@state.co.us)>

Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 1:38 PM

Subject: Re: Discharge into Las Animas

To: Mike King - DNR <[mike.king@state.co.us](mailto:mike.king@state.co.us)>, Robert Randall - DNR

<[robert.randall@state.co.us](mailto:robert.randall@state.co.us)>, Todd Hartman - DNR <[todd.hartman@state.co.us](mailto:todd.hartman@state.co.us)>

Some points of clarification after consulting with Tony and, since they were not agreeing on all points, then Tony and Bruce together, including our involvement:

It is not a superfund site, but it is subject to a CERCLA removal action by EPA, so EPA jurisdiction.

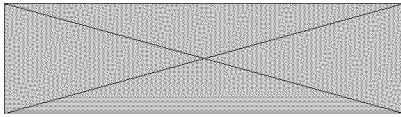
We had it permitted in the 1980's, the permit was later forfeited and the AML program redirected surface flows and closed the portals.

As Bruce mentioned, Alan Sorenson was working as an adviser and technical consultant to EPA, primarily on the Red and Bonita, but also on the Gold King although he was not with the EPA contractors this morning.

Bruce and Tony agree that the pressure would have blown at some point no matter what.

Ginny Brannon

Division Director



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1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

[Ginny.Brannon@state.co.us](mailto:Ginny.Brannon@state.co.us) | <http://mining.state.co.us>

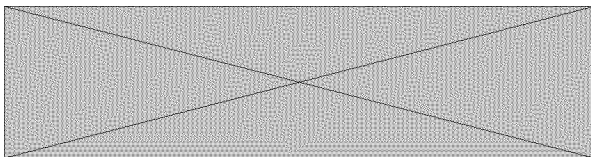
On Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 12:47 PM, Brannon - DNR, Ginny  
<[ginny.brannon@state.co.us](mailto:ginny.brannon@state.co.us)> wrote:

EPA's response team was working on rehabilitating a portal at the Gold King Mine near Silverton this morning and a plug blew that discharged hundreds of thousands of gallons water contaminated with heavy metals and debris, the volume of which is approximately 20 to 30 feet deep, into Upper Cement Creek. The heavy metals include iron, zinc and copper. We estimate the water will hit the confluence with Las Animas in the next 10-15 minutes and flow through Silverton.

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**Mark Salley**

**Communications Director**

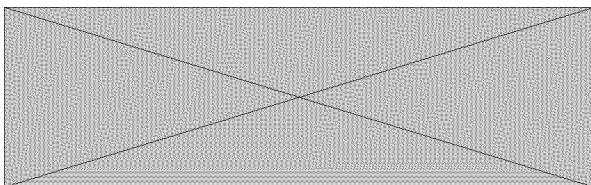


office: 303.692-2013 | cell: 303.921-8594

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**Freddy Arck**

**Public Information Specialist**



P 303.692.3304 | C 303.919.0675

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South

Denver, CO 80246-1530

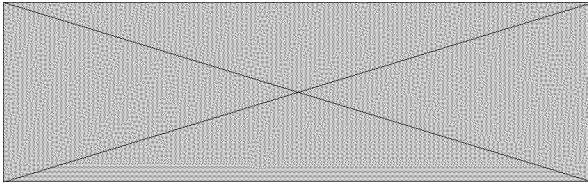
[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/hm](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/hm)

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**Warren Smith, APR**

**Community Involvement Manager**

Community Involvement Unit



P [303.692.3373](tel:303.692.3373) | TF [1.888.569.1831](tel:1.888.569.1831) x 3373 | F [303.759.5355](tel:303.759.5355) | C [303-912.1849](tel:303-912.1849)

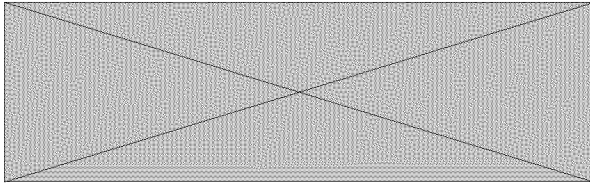
[warren.smith@state.co.us](mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us) | [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/hm](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/hm)

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**Warren Smith, APR**

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